

NEWS RELEASE

Alabama Department of Public Safety

courtesy • service • protection since 1935

Department of Public Safety Issues Policy Prohibiting Bias-based Enforcement

MONTGOMERY -- Col. Mike Coppage, director of the Alabama Department of Public Safety, announced today that he has issued a new procedure for state troopers to address bias-based enforcement. The new policy prohibits enforcement or investigative activities based solely on race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, religion, economic status or age of an individual.

The new policy provides for annual training of employees and holds supervisory personnel accountable for the reporting and investigation of any bias-based incidents or complaints. Further, the policy provides for annual review of the department's practices and enforcement activities, including citizens' complaints, by the department's Standards and Integrity Unit.

"There is no place in any professional law enforcement organization for any type of bias-based enforcement," Coppage said. "This policy clearly states that such actions will not be tolerated, and it holds the individual trooper accountable and provides for supervisory oversight to ensure enforcement of the policy."

Coppage said issuance of the policy "is not based upon any complaint or pattern of abuse in the Department of Public Safety. It just makes good supervisory sense to formalize what already is being practiced. This policy will enhance the department's mission of courtesy, service and protection to the people of this state," said Coppage.

4-29-03



for more information contact:

Public Information/Education • P.O. Box 1511 • Montgomery AL 36102-1511

(334) 242-4445 • <http://www.dps.state.al.us/>